

European And Third World Press On Colombo

Il Fiorino, August 22

DEBT AND MORATORIA: THE MOST EXPLOSIVE THEMES IN THIRD WORLD AND INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES' RELATIONS

by Vitangeli

In 1973 the developing countries' balance of payment deficit was somewhat less than \$12 billion. This deficit more than tripled last year, reaching \$40 billion. Within four years, the developing countries would accumulate a \$112 billion deficit per year. Indeed, one cannot talk to them about the need for an austerity policy. That the United States or West Germany nonetheless could demand of Chad or the Sudan to tighten their belts because their expenses are too high is a display of macabre humor. Even without assuming that indebtedness might grow at such a high annual rate, the massive debt already accumulated, and the interest that accompanies it, is so heavy a burden for the developing countries (as well as for Italy) that it is dubious whether their economies can bear it.

It is in this context that the idea of a moratorium, or a suspension, or even a partial cancellation of the debt is being discussed more and more openly. For the spokesmen of the financial world who have in their hands the keys to the international credit system, speaking of moratorium is like invoking the devil himself. But facts are facts. Today people use euphemisms like "consolidation," "stretching out short term debts to mid-term," "refinancing the loans." Italy is already on this path and our political class, both the majority and the opposition, refuse to call things by their right names.

However, the Non-Aligned countries are not afflicted by these scruples or reverential fears. Thus, moratoria was proposed and discussed at the Colombo Summit. They discussed a probable cancellation of payment on interest on debt and the use of part of the debt as aid: that is, as gifts from the industrialized system, and other possible ways of alleviating the debt or declaring debt moratoria.

If these credits were not to be repaid, the financial earthquake thus provoked would have apocalyptic consequences. The American banking system would be devastated by a hurricane. American banking schemes to hegemonize, or even monopolize, the international financial system would collapse like a house of cards. . . .

Mainichi (Japan), August 24

THIRD WORLD STIFFENS STAND

The industrial countries will have to watch what developing nations ask of them in the future after Third World nations toughened their stance toward them at the Non-Aligned summit conference held last week in Sri Lanka, according to Foreign Ministry sources. In the Colombo meeting, the Non-Aligned countries called for a new international economic order in their favor, the sources noted.

The Third World countries proposed a union of producers of primary goods, the establishment of a common fund by developing countries to finance buffer stocks and early settlement of huge accumulated debts of developing countries through concessions by industrial nations, they said.

The sources said settlement of these problems would be impossible without the cooperation of industrialized nations. . . .

The sources added that the so-called Group of 77 developing countries will hold an informal ministerial session in September in Mexico to consider future strategy.

Handelsblatt, August 23

At first glance, the economic resolutions of the Conference of Non-Aligned nations in Colombo once again present a long catalogue of demands. But a closer look at them shows that they are an apparently consistent and logical continuation of the North-South debate that has been going on for years.

The resolutions that were passed on the weekend say that the developing countries will allow nothing less than a totally new reordering of the international economic system, which will allow them to attain an acceptable level of development. The Conference placed itself totally behind the decisions of the 6th Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of Nations, the Dakar Raw Materials Conference, and the Manila Declarations of the Group of 77.

In particular, the heads of states and governments of the non-aligned nations are demanding: a fundamentally new arrangement of the worldwide division of labor. This should make it possible for the developing countries to go ahead in building up their industrial and service professions, and it should make it easier for their finished products to get access to the markets in the industrialized nations. . . .

On the theme of development aid, they are demanding an adequate flow of material on a secure, continual, and predictable basis, and a just solution for the debts of the poorest developing countries. Finally, the ruling world monetary system was heavily criticized for being an instrument of a couple of developed countries which shows no sensitivity at all for the needs of developing countries. . . .

One ambitious contribution was the proposal made by Sri Lanka for the establishment of a bank for the developing countries (which would operate according to a commercial viewpoint) and the creation of their own reserve currency. . . .

The basic documents that were put in circulation by Sri Lanka, the host country, were the cause of heated discussion. It so happened that the final wording of the political resolution was a couple of degrees sharper than the proposal that had been presented originally. And even the economic statement, and the Non-Aligned nations' program for economic action got some additional teeth.

Sueddeutsche Zeitung, August 23

The final written documents coming from the Colombo summit conference have not yet been presented. Although the only items that have been accessible to the public have been fragments and proposals, it is pretty clear from them alone how questionable the hastily reached consensus is. . . this is the axle on which the well-tuned anti-imperialism hand organ turns. This is the wall covered with posters, which give such a dry view of reality. However, the desire for an arrangement with the industrialized countries of the West (perhaps with the exception of the U.S.A., as long as Kissinger articulates its world policy) which has been expressed in the economic sections, bears the handwriting of the moderate majority. . . . Perhaps the resolutions, which the island of Ceylon will transmit to the outside world, will sound otherwise: however, the moderates quite correctly view themselves as the real victors.

Editorial: "THE SUMMIT A SUCCESS"

The success of the Colombo summit is the success of Non-Alignment which, in turn is the success of a vast section of humanity, struggling for freedom, dignity, peace, and economic progress. The struggle is a long one, when one phase is over, another emerges. The Non-Aligned countries have resisted pressures from big powers, and they have made it clear that they cannot be drafted into big power rivalry ...

The seven-point program for a new economic order included in the Economic Declaration of the summit can be implemented only with the cooperation of developed countries. Such cooperation will not be easily forthcoming. There is need to restructure world production on the basis of a new international division of labor. There should be major changes in the international monetary system so that the currencies of the affluent countries may not always play the dominant role. Adequate transfer of resources, solutions to the problems of debts, transfer of technology and the right of the landlocked countries to free access to the sea are the other goals spelt out in the Economic Declaration. What is expected of developed countries and what can be achieved by self help are complementary.

Aug. 23 "SUMMIT VERDICT: A JOLT TO THE WEST"

The fifth summit has left the western world in a mood of anxiety and unease. According to diplomatic observers here (in London), the West came under close scrutiny in Colombo for its attitudes toward the Third World, and the verdict pronounced has undoubtedly given it a few jolts.

When the conference began the West greeted it with cynicism, skepticism, and scorn, but the political and economic declarations that emerged from the summit have now compelled western leaders to reassess completely their future attitudes toward the establishment of the new world economic order ... But the message that issued forth from Colombo was clear — the non-aligned are determined to pursue the path of cooperation but would not hesitate to opt for confrontation if that is what the West wants. There are indications that the West is indeed worried ... The U.S., Great Britain, France are piqued by what they regard as "hostile" resolutions of the summit.

The threat of the oil embargo against France because of its nuclear deal with South Africa has shocked Paris. According to one commentator, France is "embarrassed" that it is identified among the ranks of the imperialists.

**Correo (Peru) Aug. 17
"MORE THAN HALF THE WORLD MAPS
ITS STRATEGY; THE NOW WORLD
ECONOMIC ORDER WILL NOT BE STOPPED"**

The decision has been taken. The strategy has been mapped out. More than half the world has begun a definitive battle for a new world economic order. The Summit of the Non-Aligned Nations will wait no more. The actions for this new order will be set in motion. This deals with demanding justice. And that has up to now been denied to us. For this reason, the time for revindication has come."

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, August 23

A QUESTIONABLE MOVEMENT

by Klaus Natrop

You cannot stop the Non-Aligned countries from having a "summit" conference every three years. . . . But they are split, although this time language of the radicals increasingly

resembled communist propaganda. Why the liberal forces were silent is their own secret....According to quantity alone, this Non-Aligned group is large. But it also makes a lot of big speeches, attacks, denunciations, and demands. When it comes to action, it is weak. . . . The quality of their policies does not correspond to their quantity. . . . Experience teaches that you have to deal with the industrialized states when you want to get something from them. . . . However, all of this just applies to what was said in the political field. Happily, in the economic area, the statements were not so demagogic. . . . This movement will finally be in its grave when its next meeting is held in Havana.

Daily Telegraph, August 23

'NON-ALIGNED' NONSENSE

Oil embargo threats by 86 self-styled non-aligned countries at their Colombo meeting give timely warning that what has always been a bogus pressure group is becoming increasingly dangerous. A cold douche of reality has now become increasingly necessary. The ostensible function of the group is to defend the interests of the "neutrals" . . . against the effects of super-power rivalries. This pose was shown up by the speeches and resolutions at Colombo, which were almost totally directed against the West, especially America. . . . It was abundantly clear that "imperialism" meant not Russia, with its subject peoples. . . but the liberal, military-budget-cutting, aid-giving, Western de-colonisers. . . .

The wealthy countries. . . are also increasingly discouraged by the way the third world countries are trying to play off Russian military and diplomatic power against the West until all their other economic demands are met. Yet the developing countries are almost totally dependent on the West. . . Russia, by contrast, has little to offer except arms, ideology and political penetration.

The Third World, for its part, must understand that the whole Russian system. . . is obnoxious to the West. By overplaying the Russian card and persuading themselves that the West, with its manifest good intentions, is "neo-imperialist," the developing countries risk rejecting a fruitful partnership and the only means to their economic salvation — to say nothing of the other perils.

O Diario (Lisbon, Communist Party daily), August 23

NON-ALIGNED ECONOMIC RESOLUTIONS

The fifth summit of Non-Aligned countries approved twelve resolutions of an economic character which were formulated by the economic commission of the ministerial conference that took place before the summit:

1) Creation of a bank of the Non-Aligned countries to strengthen financial cooperation between the cited countries, almost all of which are on the road to development. A group of technicians was charged with studying the possibilities of the creation of that bank.

2) New economic order. The Non-Aligned countries are of the opinion that a parallel monetary system must be created which counterposes its economic force to that of the monetary system of imperialism. . . .

**THE BERLIN CONFERENCE AND THE
INTERNATIONAL CONJUNCTURE**

by A. Villaverde Cabral

The recent Conference of the Communist and Workers Parties

of Europe, held in the German Democratic Republic. . . was an important event which, because the Communist and Workers parties govern a good part of Europe and constitute forces of much weight in the other, will project its influence over our continent during a certain period. But besides that: its conclusions assume importance even outside of Europe since many people openly consider that questions that are not confined within the borders of Europe such as the political and economic weight of the socialist countries, coupled with the growing influence of the working class and of its parties in the countries

Socialist Sector Press On Colombo

Izvestia, Aug. 24

"After Colombo

In the course of the past week, world public opinion and the press have been turned to the discussions going on at the 5th conference of heads of state of the Non-Aligned countries and the documents it adopted...

Let us note that the conference took place in circumstances of new victories of the forces of peace and national liberation, conditions of relaxation of international tensions and the triumph of the principles of peaceful coexistence which are, as it was stressed during the discussions, the basic principle of the Non-Aligned movement.

The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries attribute great importance to the Non-Aligned movement, as is indicated by the high evaluation given it in the greeting of General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union L. I. Brezhnev to the participants of the conference, which was received in Colombo with great attention.

On their part, the conference participants indicated that the Non-Aligned and the socialist countries are allies in the struggle of Third World peoples for genuine political and economic independence.

The political declaration adopted at the conference states that the Non-Aligned countries consider the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid and Zionism to be the most important task.

The conference participants especially mentioned the decisions of the All-European conference in Helsinki and expressed the hope that the relaxation of international tensions will be spread to other parts of the world... The political declaration indicates the necessity of convoking a world conference on disarmament — an idea put forward by the Soviet Union. The conference participants discussed in detail the problem of turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace and demanded the liquidation of imperialist military bases existing in that region of the world.

The political declaration of the conference showed clearly that the Non-Aligned movement, as before, expresses the yearning of the peoples of the young states born on the shards of colonial empires, of the patriots struggling against the racist policies of Israel, South Africa and Rhodesia. The declaration condemns the USA, France, England and the Federal Republic of Germany as powers collaborating with and extending economic support to those regimes.

It is understandable that the ideas of the Non-Aligned movement are not at all to the taste of the imperialist circles and their allies in Peking. Subversive work on the part of these forces began long before the start of the conference. And then at the conference itself, there were individual presentations

still subjected to capitalist injustice, necessarily determine evolution on our planet and on all of it. . . .

The developing countries that are trying to depart from the misery into which they were thrown by colonialism and by imperialism are naturally rebelling against those who are responsible for their present situation. In that difficult struggle, the non-aligned countries know that they have the support of the progressive forces of the whole world, at the head of which are the socialist world and all the workers parties of all countries. That was made very clear at the Berlin Conference. . . .

which... tried to develop the clearly fallacious thesis on 'super-power hegemony,' and to place an equal sign between socialism and imperialism. They tried to pass to the socialist countries some of the blame for the economic difficulties of the developing countries, which the capitalist powers and monopolies robbed for centuries and continue to rob, using the mechanism of the capitalist market.

These false voices, however, were sniffed out at the conference and did not get support. In particular, the economic declaration adopted there demands a review of international economic relations proceeding from the principles of fairness. It calls also for closer cooperation of the developing countries in order, through joint efforts, to resist discrimination, economic pressure and robbery by monopoly capital...

U.S. Press On Colombo

Aug. 27 (NSIPS) — The major, particularly liberal, press in the United States have blacked out or, at best, misreported the week-long deliberation and final declarations for a New International Economic Order of the Non-Aligned Summit meeting in Sri Lanka last week. Such press, like the New York Times and the Washington Post, are, as Times' economic reporter Edwin Dale admitted, getting their news straight from the State Department.

The "objective" wire services, Reuters, Associated Press and United Press International, have resorted to gross distortions of the news in order to interpret the outcome of the Sri Lanka summit to the American public as a melange of "anti-imperialist" warnings on the synthetic North Korean crisis, and calls for the return of the Panama Canal to the Panamanians. News media, like the Denver Post, and New York's WINS and WNWS radio, have used the wire services as the basis for their editorial outcries and cover up news reporting.

Rankling under the conspicuous lack of reporting from the "major press," several independent conservative and Black audience newspapers and radio stations are now relying on this news service for their coverage of major world events.

New York Times

On Aug. 23, an NSIPS correspondent contacted the Times' top Washington, D.C.-based economics reporter, Edwin Dale, on the outcome of the Non-Aligned Summit. Dale, whose reports are the basis for national press reports on international economic developments, responded: "I'm very glad you brought this to my attention. I didn't know about the communique (for a new universal monetary system — Ed.). I'll be sure to get it."

In his August 25 article, "Carter's Foreign Economic Plan," Dale reported: "Also looming in the background, though possibly not a very real threat, is the idea of 'debt moratorium' by some of many of the poorer countries. This idea was voiced again at the meeting last week in Sri Lanka... of the heads of state of the 'Non-Aligned' countries, although no specific threats were made."